

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 06788 061907Z

43

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

PM-03 DODE-00 SAM-01 SP-02 L-01 EB-03 SSO-00 INRE-00

/043 W

----- 130212

O P 061100Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 351

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 6788

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR TU

SUBJ: GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS: MEETING WITH BITSIOS

REF ATHENS 6783, 6784

1. IN MY MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS LAST NIGHT, DURING THE COURSE OF A LONG DISCUSSION ON CYPRUS (SEPTTEL) WE ALSO COVERED SEVERAL POINTS CONCERNING GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS. BITSIOS SAID THAT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE BILATERAL SIDE WITH TURKEY WERE ABOUT AS DISAPPOINTING AS THE LACK OF PROGRESS ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE. INDEED, HE SAID, THERE HAVE BEEN A COUPLE OF SETBACKS IN RECENT DAYS.

2. THE FIRST SETBACK WAS A NOTE JUST RECEIVED FROM THE GOT CONCERNING THE AIR SPACE TALKS THAT ARE SCHEDULED TO RESUME ON MONDAY IN ISTANBUL. AS A RESULT OF THE PREVIOUS TWO ROUNDS OF TALKS AND A MAJOR EFFORT BY THE GOG TO BE FORTHCOMING AND "SMOOTH OVER" RELATIONS WITH TURKEY, AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED ON ALL AEGEAN FIR SPACE QUESTIONS SAVE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ATHENS 06788 061907Z

ONE -- THE SO-CALLED 50-MILE "SAFETY ZONE"

WARNING THAT THE TURKS WERE INSISTING UPON. HOWEVER, IN THE NOTE JUST RECEIVED THE TURKS NOTIFIED THE GOG THAT HENCEFORTH TURKEY COULD NOT ACCEPT THE 10-MILE CONCEPT FOR AIR SPACE OVER GREEK ISLANDS IN THE AEGEAN. BITSIOS EXPLAINED THAT WHILE GREECE CLAIMED ONLY A 6-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA AROUND THE GREEK ISLANDS, BECAUSE OF THE UNUSUAL GEOGRAPHY INVOLVED, GREECE HAD, SINCE 1931, CLAIMED A 10-MILE AIR SPACE CORRIDOR AROUND THE ISLANDS. HE SAID THAT TURKEY HAD ALWAYS ACCEPTED AND RESPECTED THIS 10-MILE ZONE AND THERE WERE TONS OF COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ACKNOWLEDGING THIS UNDERSTANDING. HOWEVER, THE TURKS WERE NOW UNWILLING TO ACCEPT THIS ADDITIONAL FOUR MILES OF AIR SPACE AROUND THE ISLANDS, AND BITSIOS THOUGHT THIS WAS A MOST DISAPPOINTING DEVELOPMENT GIVEN THE EFFORTS BOTH SIDES HAD BEEN MAKING TO TRY AND IMPROVE RELATIONS.

3. THE SECOND SETBACK CONCERNED THE RAISING OF A TURKISH FLAG ON UNINHABITED GREEK ISLANDS THREE TIMES IN RECENT DAYS. (TWO ISLANDS ARE INVOLVED.) EACH TIME THE GREEKS HAD DESPATCHED A VESSEL TO THE ISLAND CONCERNED TO LOWER THE FLAG. I SAID MY IMPRESSION WAS THAT THIS WAS LITTLE MORE THAN A PRANK AND NOT MUCH IMPORTANCE SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO IT. BITSIOS AGREED AND SAID THAT THIS WAS THE ATTITUDE ADOPTED BY THE GOG AND THEY HAD MADE A STATEMENT TO THAT EFFECT AFTER THE FIRST SUCH INCIDENT. HOWEVER, HE WENT ON, AN INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBLE FOR RAISING A FLAG HAD BEEN PUBLICLY IDENTIFIED IN TURKEY AND AS FAR AS THE GOG KNEW, TURKISH AUTHORITIES HAD TAKEN NO ACTION TO REPRIMAND OR PUNISH HIM. MOREOVER, THERE HAD BEEN NOT THE SLIGHTEST WORD OR GESTURE FROM ANKARA TO THE CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT EXPRESSING REGRET ABOUT THESE INCIDENTS.

4. I ASKED BITSIOS ABOUT THE CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE AND ANY PLANS FOR MEETING TO DRAFT THE COMPROMISE TO THE WORLD COURT. HE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ATHENS 06788 061907Z

SAID HE WAS STILL AWAITING WORD FROM ANKARA AS TO WHEN THE MEETING COULD BE SCHEDULED. HE SAID THAT CAGLAYANGIL HAD PROMISED HIM THAT THEY WOULD BE READY FOR THE MEETING IN SEPTEMBER AND BITSIOS HOPED VERY MUCH THAT THEY WOULD ADHERE TO THAT SCHEDULE AS THE GREEK SIDE WAS READY NOW. KUBISCH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, TERRITORIAL WATERS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS06788
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750309-0474
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750975/aaaacopr.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 ATHENS 6783, 75 ATHENS 6784
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS: MEETING WITH BITSIOS
TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, (BITSIOS, DIMITRIOS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006